TEL. Y2254. St 7447 26360

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,

Mosman,

Sydney, 15th August, 1922.

Mr. McLennan,
Coen
North Queensland.

Dear Mr. McLennan,

Regarding our interview on Friday in relation to securing birds and animals from Cape York, I have interviewed my Chairman on the matter and he has agreed that not more than £150 be expended, of which £50 was to be available for birds. The animals that we are very anxious to secure are the Marsupial Carnivore, ~~any~~ the new poisonous snake and the Green Python; also the arboreal bandicoot, or whatever this creature may be.

I draw your attention to the possibilities of the Queensland Government, under their new Law in relation to the trapping and collecting or birds and animals, may claim any new type or species. In this connection we are getting in touch with the Government of Queensland, and have requested that they might waive their claim in this respect, provided that the birds and animals in question be retained at Taronga Park and not sold or exchanged without their permission.

Attached pleasefind copy of the prices we are prepared to pay.

Yours Faithfully,

A. E. Sawyer

Marsupial Carnivore - One at £50, two ~~at~~ for £80. Limited to two. animals

Large Snake, not less than 8 feet - one for £10, two for £15. Limited to two. reptile

Green Python - one for £15, two for £20. Limited to two. reptiles.

Tree Climbing Bandicoot - £8 per pair. Limited to four. animals.

Great Palm Black Cockatoo. - £9.0.0. per pair. Limited to 6 birds,

Blue Cheeked Parrot - 10/- each. Limited to twenty birds.

Rifle Birds - £3.0.0. each. Limited to six birds.

Fruit Pigeons - £1 each for ~~four~~ each of the Superb and Ewings Limited to 6 birds.

~~Cockatoos £3 each.~~

Striped Opossum - £5 each. Limited to four animals.

Frill Lizard - £1.10.0. each. Limited to 6 reptiles.

Above prices are subject to the stock arriving alive in good condition and uninjured in Sydney., and F.O.B., Sydney.

Ashbury

Marsupial Carnivore - One at £50, two ~~at~~ for £80. Limited to two animals.

Large Snake, not less than 8 feet - one for £10, two for £15. Limited to two reptiles.

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Frill Lizard - £1.10.0. each. Limited to 6 reptiles.

Above prices are subject to the stock arriving in good condition and uninjured in Sydney., and N.S.W., Sydney.

TELS. Y2254
AND
Y2205.

St 7447 69406

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,
Mosman,
Sydney, 28/8/22

Dear Mr McLennan

Mr Indriess wrote a very good account of the supposed marsupial carnivore in the Bulletin and I have written him asking him to get in touch with you and also to try and locate the home of the beastin question.

On looking up old records of the animal I find that it has on native accounts been found to live on the tops of the ranges,in very rough rocky country,probably just where the Rock wallabies live as these are its probable food,the nati ves are frightened of it and apparantly will not go after it or near its habitat,but it is not a very fearsome beast for a boy met one in 1871 and chased it with a fox terrier,the description agrees with that given by Mr Idress and I have no doubt of its existance

One as said to have been shot in the Atherton District many years ago but not preserved,and this animal again agrees with the striped beast seen by Idriess

I am posting you the Edge of the Jungle which I hope arrives all right,write one yourself

Sincerly yours

A. S. Sowell

I would impress the necessity on any animals etc that you get that are new to get a duplicate skin for the Queensland Museum as they may claim ~~anything~~ new things and it would be difficult if there was only one,w have offered in that case to send the skin and skull to them hen it dies

Ashes

TELS. Y2254
AND
Y2205.

St 7447 63406

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,
Mosman,

Sydney, 29/8/22

Dear Mr McLennan

Forgot to say yestoday in writing to you that I specially require a photo of a cuscus, in a tree if possible and also if you come across any to remind you that we have no knowledge atall of their habits, what trees they inhabit or what they eat

Sincerly yours

Ashton

TELS. Y2254
AND
Y2205.

St 7447

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,

Mosman,

Sydney, 14.9.22

Dear Mr McLennan

I have had word from a Mr Endres at Mundubbera that he trapped a striped animal some years ago and have written to him offering five pounds for the skull or ten pounds for skin and skull the origonal will be gone long since but he might get another

I have also written to all the telegraph stations along the line to top of Cape York asking if they have heard of anything for the sort in their district and I will let you know the results

Mr Sherrin has just returned from Cape York, no doubt you heard of him, he has a very general collection of insedts mammals and birds as well as plants, these are chiefly for the British Museum

Sincerly yours

A Ross Sawney

TEL. Y2254. St 7447 26360

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,

Mosman,

Sydney, 18.9.22

W.McLennan Esq
Coen Q.

Dear Mr McLennan

We have received a letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture (No. 22/16495) dated the 13th September giving permission to take animals, birds and reptiles as under. The Origonal we have retained, but it can be produced if necessary

Should you meet Mr Indriess would you ask him if he can still get the skull of the animal that killed his dog, see if a fiver will make him go for it but I will go to ten if it can be posted right on to me personally before the end of the year so that I can include it in my book. it will then go back to the Queensland Museum, also ask him what month i of the year it was when he saw it, and what class of country

Yours faithfully

2 Only Striped Marsupials species unknown
4 Striped Opossums
2 Bandicoots or Musk Kangaroos Species unknown
6 Great palm Cockatoos
18 Blue-cheeked Parrots
6 Fruit pigeons superb, Ewings or Purple-Breasted
2 Large Poisonous snakes
2 Green Pythons
6 Frilled Lizards

Rifle Bears are permitted

TELS. Y2254
AND
Y2205.

St 7447

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,

Mosman,

Sydney, 1.10.22

Dear Mr McLennan

In answer to your letter of the IIth which I was glad to get. The parrots are doing well, though one male died in good condition from no apparent cause, the others are coming alon all right some have been put out in a large aviary and the rest will follow as the first seemed to benifit, they are changing colour slowly

I had a long letter from Indriess who is in Brisbane and have asked him to describe the striped animal as near as he can, owing to the action of the Queensland authorities in insisting on their pound of flesh in the matter we cannot purchase any

Re the snake with the diamond marks on the back of the head, I have rung up Mr Kinghorn at the museum and he states that it is as far as he can say unknown, I certainly have never heard of it, and for thet matter Mr Grant Lane has some pictures of snakes taken in ~~that district~~ in the Gulf District and I cannot place any of them, so I guess that the fauna other than the birds is practically unknown

A wild Pheasant Coucal has come into the park and I hope will stay, and I have just got a New Zealand Harrier picked up at sea 600 miles from land

Wishing you success I am sincerly yours

TELS. Y2254
AND
Y2205.

St 7447

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,

Mosman,

Sydney, 27.1[illegible].22

W. McLennan Esq
Coes N.Q.

Dear Mr McLennan

We have a latter from the Under Secretary for Agriculture refusing us permission to take any animal or reptile that may be rare or new to science out of the State without first depositing ~~as xxxxxxxxxxx~~ specimens, presumedely two in the museum in spite of the fact that we agree to return them to the museum afetr being exhibited here and under the circumstances we will have to ask you to cancel attempts to get the live striped cat, bandicoot and green python. ofcourse if the latter are common a specimen may be specially for for the museum and then I suppose some live ones could come out, but as it is very unlikely that more than one would be seen and procured this really cuts the animals mentioned out, one cannot in any case handle and transport these things away out back We can still take the birds though I do not suppose that it will be worth a mans while to go out for so few things

Very glad to see your account oin the last emu, it is exceedingly interesting

Sincerly yours

A S Le Souef

TELS: Y2254
AND
Y2205.

S: 7447

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,

Mosman,

Sydney, 30.11.22

TARONGA · ZOOLOGICAL · PARK · TRUST · SYDNEY

Dear Mr McLennan

I acknowledge your letter of the 7th.and am sorry that the prices are not sufficent to warrant collecting We will go into the matter again and se if anything further can be done in the matter

Mr Indriess (Gouger) is in Brisbane and expects to be in Sydney next week and I hope to have a chat with him.He has given me a very good description of the "Striped Cat".He mentions another prospector that has seen four of the animals.This man is still in the Peninsular and seems to live a good deal with the natives

I am trying to arrange a trip to the Peninsula myself after this animal about next July,after the rain.I think that by consentrating on the animal and using all the wiles of the Shikiri, it can be got and if the right habitat is located it will not be uncommon.My offer of twenty five pounds for skin and skeleton still holds if posted to me

I would like to get a fair idea of the cost of say six weeks in the field,working on the Alice and the Palmer

Mr White was here yestoday and saw his birds

Sincerly yours

A H Sawyer

TELS. Y2254
AND
Y2205.

St 7447

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,

Mosman,

Sydney, 8.1.23

Dear Mr McLennon

As the peninsula seems to be such an interesting place from a mammal point of view, and being specially anxious to run this new "Striped Cat" to earth I would like to have a run up myself if possible about next June

In the event of my being able to get the time away I would like to know the probable cost of the trip out from Cooktown, for say six weeks in the field. working out in the Ranges and along the Alice River

Indriess who is in Brisbane has not yet comme along, he expected to be in Sydney last month. I have heard of the animal further south from another chap and expect that he will be able to take me out to where he got the beast, and I hope that beingingthe vicinity a little careful shikari work combined with trapping, poisoning and snaring will have some chance of waylaying one of the ~~xxxx~~ elusive animals

Sincerly yours

A. S. Bailey

Located a nice flock of the Blue-winged Parrot in the mountains near Kosciusko at Xmas

TELS. Y2254
AND
Y2205.

St 7447

Taronga Zoological Park Trust,

Zoological Gardens,

Mosman,

Sydney, 5.3.23

Dear Mr McLennon

The remains of the animal came to hand safely and turn out to be a specimen of the Long-haired Jerboa Rat Mesembryomys hirsutus, a variety confined to North Queensland another species with a wider distribution is found in the Territory

Have not heard much regarding the new animal, but another chap has located it on the ranges near the Alice River, seems to know it pretty well, I hope to be able to take a dive through the country after it if time can be got about June. It will be case of using all the wiles of the trapper and hunter that can be commanded

Sincerly yours

A S Lewis